

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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11

ACTION SS-20

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R 010930Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7671

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0849

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, NP, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA

REF: STATE 037015

1. JOE SISCO'S RECENT CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR KAUL (REFTEL) INDICATES YOU ARE TENTATIVELY THINKING OF TRAVEL IN THE SECOND HALF OF MARCH TO INCLUDE INDIA AND PERHAPS OTHER STOPS. AS AN INPUT INTO THE PLANNING FOR SUCH A POSSIBLE TRIP, I WOULD LIKE YOU AND THOSE WHO ARE ASSESSING THE COMPETING DEMANDS ON YOUR TIME TO HAVE MY THOUGHTS ON THE KIND OF BRIEF STOP THAT COULD BE MADE IN NEPAL AND WHAT MIGHT BE ACHIEVED IN SUCH A VISIT.

2. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL AND KING BIRENDRA IN PARTICULAR, WOULD VERY MUCH WELCOME THE CHANCE TO MEET WITH YOU. HIS MAJESTY HAS THE GREATEST ADMIRATION FOR YOU DATING FROM HIS DAYS AS A STUDENT AT HARVARD, AND WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL INTIMATIONS THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD WANT YOU TO COME TO NEPAL IF YOU WERE IN THE AREA. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY PALACE OFFICIALS THAT NEPAL'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON MENTIONED THIS POSSIBILITY TO YOU INFORMALLY SOME MONTHS AGO.

3. NEPAL HAS A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN MANY OF THE PROBLEMS TO WHICH YOU HVE BEEN DEVOTING YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION. IT HAS CONTRIBUTED A SUBSTANTIAL CONTINGENT TO UNEF AND FOR THIS AND OTHER REASONS WOULD VERY MUCH VALUE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

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FOR A DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST; IT IS A MEMBER OF THE SMALL

COORDINATING GROUP OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES AND HAS APPREHENSIONS ABOUT THE POLICIES AND STEAM-ROLLER TACTICS FOSTERED BY THE EXTREMIST MEMBERS OF THE GROUP; AND, OF COURSE, PLACED AS IT IS BETWEEN CHINA AND INDIA, NEPAL HAS STRONG INTERESTS IN STABILITY IN ASIA AND IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DETENTE AND IS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN OUR POLICIES IN THESE REGARDS.

4. WERE YOU ABLE TO INCLUDE NEPAL ON YOUR ITINERARY, I WOULD SUGGEST A VERY BRIEF STOPOVER (PERHAPS EN ROUTE FROM DELHI TO SOME OTHER CAPITAL IN THE AREA) INVOLVING ONLY A CONVERSATION WITH HIS MAJESTY AND SUCH HIGH LEVEL ADVISORS AS HE MIGHT WISH TO HAVE PRESENT. SUCH A MEETING MIGHT INCLUDE: (1) A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST; (2) THE PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA AND THE EVOLUTION OF OUR RESPECTIVE RELATIONS WITH THE STATES OF THE AREA; (3) THE PROGRESS OF OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE DETENTE WITH CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION; AND (4) THE ROLE AND POSITION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THIS LAST ITEM WOULD GIVE THE NEPALESE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE NON-ALIGNED AGROUP. IT WOULD ALSO GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO INDICATE TO HIS MAJESTY THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE BALANCED POSITION WHICH NEPAL HAS TRADITIONALLY TAKEN ON THIRD WORLD ISSUES AND TO REITERATE TO A SMALL, ISOLATED AND EXTREMELY UNDERDEVELOPED ASIAN POWER OUR CONTINUED INTEREST IN AND CONCERN FOR ITS INDEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

5. AS IS IMPLICIT IN THE FOREGOING, THE UNITED STATES HAPPILY HAS NO SERIOUS BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH NEPAL, AND YOUR DISCUSSION WOULD NOT NEED TO BE FOCUSSED ON RESOLUTION OF ANY BILATERAL ISSUES. IN THE AREA, HOWEVER, OF THE CONTROL OF NARCOTIC DRUGS, A QUIET WORD BY YOU TO HIS MAJESTY UNDERSCORING THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO STRENGTHENED DRUG CONTROLS IN NEPAL WOULD ENCOURAGE THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL TO PROCEED WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THE MUCH-NEEDED BASIC DRUG LEGISLATION AT THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN JULY.

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